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Hickman farm in Tonopah drawing ire from residents.

Joe Dana, 12 News 12:23 p.m. MST July 10, 2015

An AZ egg factory is making life smelly and residents say it's a health hazard for the families that live near the plant. KPNX



For Sonia Lopez and her family, life is now categorized in two ways: conditions before the arrival of the Egg farm and afterwards.

"Before the factory, my kids were able to walk to the store; walk to work. Now, we barely go outside," Lopez said.

The family has lived in Tonopah since 2001. Their house sits on the other side of Indian School Road, just to the north of the sprawling multi-complex egg facility constructed last year.

Hickman Family Farms has built seven 158,000-square-foot "lay houses," and plans to add a comparable number of houses within the next two years, a company spokesman said. Supporters of the farm say it will add local jobs and tax revenue, not to mention extra profits to the small handful of business owners in Tonopah.

But since the announcement of the construction of the farm in November 2013, the egg producer has been the target of protests and an unsuccessful court injunction request by Tonopah residents who argued the facility would deteriorate the quality of life in this far-flung, rural town just south of the I-10.

The Lopez family and other Tonopah residents say the stench emanating from the egg farm is already unbearable during certain times of the day. Lopez and residents at a nearby mobile home park also contend the air pollution produced by the facility creates a health hazard. A spokesman for Hickman Family Farms says they've been assured by state air quality regulators the farm is not in violation of air standards. County regulators also say the nature and location of the facility is in-line with county agricultural standards for which the land was zoned.

In the coming weeks, 12 News will be examining the environmental, economic, and political impact of the Hickman Family Farms Tonopah egg facility.

